DECEMBER 18, 2012

Rush, Heart Finally Get To Deck The Hall

BY MALCOLM X ABRAM

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AKRON, Ohio — Well, two longsuffering, deserving rock bands down, and a bunch more to go.

After waiting patiently (and by waiting patiently, I mean filling arenas throughout North and South America and Asia and still making and selling pretty good records), Canadian prog-rock trio Rush, eligible since 1998, is being inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Joining the band will be Heart (waiting patiently since 2001), blues legend Albert King (don't get me started on how long his ghost has been waiting), singer/song-writer Randy Newman, R&B and disco queen Donna Summer, hiphop revolutionaries Public Enemy, producer/manager Lou Adler and producer/composer/ band leader Quincy Jones.

Artists are eligible for enshrinement 25 years after their debut recording.

It's an eclectic group, a trend the rock hall is making a concentrated effort to continue as it expands its definition of rock and roll to basically mean popular music. The induction ceremony will be held April 18 at the Nokia Theatre in Los Angeles.

Here then, is YOUR Rock and Roll Hall of Fame class of 2013:

RUSH

The Canadian rock trio of helium-voiced singer/bassist Geddy Lee, underrated guitarist Alex Lifeson and drum god/erudite lyricist Neil Peart has been eligible for more than a decade but 2012 was the band's first time being nominated, highlighting the bias many interested observers believe the Rock Hall Foundation voters hold against certain bands.

Rush was never a critic's band or considered particularly cool, but its hits — which span its entire 40-plus years of performing and include "Tom Sawyer," "The Spirit of Radio," "Working Man," "Closer to the Heart," "Fly By Night" (featured in a car commercial) and many more — are all rock radio constants. And the band's influence on younger bands such as Metallica, Mastodon, Foo Fighters and Smashing Pumpkins is undeniable

TUESDAY PRIMETIME/LATE NIGHT

HEART

Another overdue induction. It may seem a bit quaint to young rock fans now, but in the 1970s, a female-driven rock band (as opposed to a manufactured "all-girl" band such as the Runaways) was an anomaly, and every woman in rock 'n' roll owes a debt to sisters Ann and Nancy Wilson.

Despite greasy music "bizness" types' best efforts to reduce them to sexy rock chicks and/or lovers (detailed in the galloping "Barracuda"), they stuck to their musical guns, giving rock fans tough tunes such as "Magic Man," "Straight On" and "Crazy on You."

In the '80s, the group went the power ballad route, having bigger hits with slow dancing tunes including "What About Love" and "These Dreams" from its self-titled Billboard-topping 1985 album.

This is the band's second nomination. It's been eligible since 2001.

ALBERT KING

When Chicago bluesman Buddy Guy was inducted into the rock hall in 2005, one of the people he championed as more deserving was Albert King, who died in 1992.

The left-handed Texas bluesman was known for playing his signature right-handed Gibson Flying V upside down. His biting, sharp tone and soulful singing was a huge influence on his peers and he is still influencing young guitar players today.

One famous acolyte, Stevie Ray Vaughn, filled his first album with licks cribbed straight from the Albert King/Jimi Hendrix (who was also heavily influenced by King) handbook.

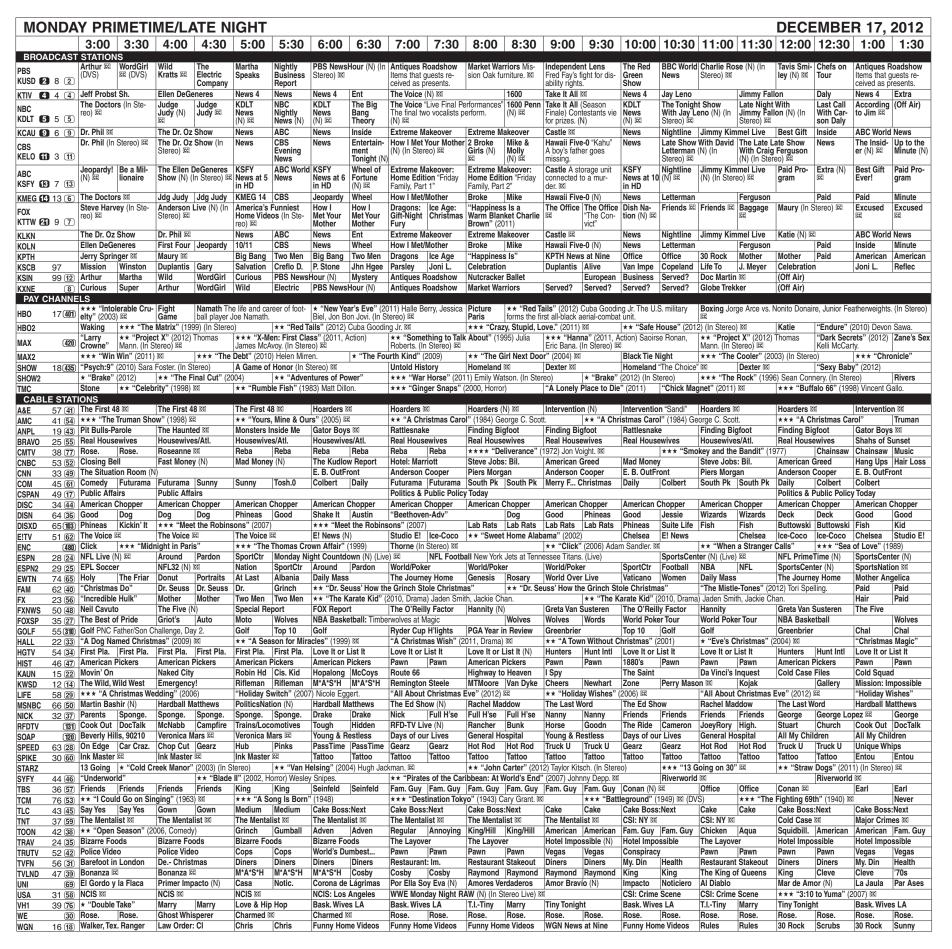
King's best-known songs include "Crosscut Saw," "As the Years Go Passing By" and "Born Under a Bad Sign."

This is King's first nomination but he's been eligible since 1987.

RANDY NEWMAN

The celebrated singer/songwriter, beloved in the industry by his musical peers and by a dedicated fan base, is likely best known to younger generations for

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